have been initiated in the capital and money markets to induce industrial growth.

Packing of cement in paper bags

953. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take immediate steps to allow packing of cement in paper bags instead of jute packing in the consumers interests;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Under the Jute Packing Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987, 50% of cement produced has to be packed in Jute Bags. This Act is being administered by the Ministry of Textiles.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Promotion of industries in backward areas of Maharashtra

954. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present industrial policy to promote industries in backward areas of the country, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) the special incentives offered to attract entrepreneurs in backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) With the introduction of the New Industrial Policy and liberalisation of economy, the responsibility of Government of India is proactive and supplemental to the efforts made by the State Governments in industrialisation. The Government of India has got certain schemes for development of backward areas which include (I) Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (II) Growth Centre Scheme and (III) Transport Subsidy Scheme. In addition, there are certain tax incentives given for setting up infrastructure industries and for setting up industries in specified backward areas.

Japanese FDI in India

955. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned 'Row over MUL may hit Japanese FDI' which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 12th February, 1997; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to this news item.

(b) Investment from Japan to India has witnessed an increasing trend in as much as it has risen from a level of Rs. 527.1 million in 1991 to Rs. 14883.5 million in 1996, which is nearly 4.5% of the total investment approvals accorded for all countries. It is expected that this fising trend will continue. As far as MUL is concerned, while Government is not considering any change now in the existing equity structure of MUL or disinvestment of its shares in favour of Suzuki Motor Corporation (SMC), MUL has already decided to go in for expansion with the consent of its Board of Directors.

Closure of Loss making PSUs

956. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to close down some of the loss making public sector units;

(b) whether Government have not ascertainsd the reasons for these PSUs becoming sick or loss making prior to the above decision;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some of the cases the BIFR also did not ask the appointed Operating Agency to furnish the revival scheme and it went ahead to decide the issue of closure unilaterally;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) the further action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Wholesale privatisation of PSUs

957. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to newsitem appeared in Hindustan Times of January 16, 1997 stating that the Government proposes for wholesale privatisation of PSUs in the country; and

(b) whether it is agreed to in their common minimum programme?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Strategies have been formulated for restructuring of the PSUs of the Department of Heavy Industry in accordance with the policies enunciated in the Common Minimum Programme. These inter-alia include:

(i) Permitting BHEL, which has potential to become a global giant, to access the investment fund out of the disinvestment proceeds, to enable it to offer internationally competitive financial and credit packages.

(ii) Strengthening of PSUs by formation of Joint Ventures for one or more of their units in order to enhance the competitiveness and viability of the enterprises by infusion of technology, modern management techniques and marketing strength.

(iii) Creation of a revolving fund from out of 10% of the disinvestment proceeds for infusion of funds in accordance with approved rehabilitation schemes to facilitate quick implementation of turn-around plans.

Decision regarding automatic approvals of foreign equity

958. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's decision to expand the list of industries where automatic approvals of foreign equity are permitted has had any impact on the flow of foreign investment in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Since the expansion of the list of industries for automatic approval for foreign investment has been done recently, it is premature to comment on its immediate impact on the inflow of foreign investment.

Guidelines for FDI

959. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new guidelines have been issued for foreign direct investment proposals; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. To provide greater transparency in decision making, the Government have recently, vide Press Note No. 3 (1997 Series) (copy annexed) dated 17th January, 1997, issued a set of guidelines for consideration of foreign direct investment proposals by the FIPB. [*See Appendix 180, Annexure No. 21*]

नौवीं योजना में प्रधानमंत्री रोजगार योजना के अधीन सहायता

960. **श्री वी॰ हनुमंत राव:** क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि नौवीं योजना में प्रधानमंत्री रोजगार योजना कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत 20 लाख लोगों को सहायता दी जानी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस कार्यक्रम का पूरा ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या राज्यवार लक्ष्यों को अंतिम रूप दे दिया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो नौवीं योजना में आंध्र प्रदेश में कितने लाभभोगियों का लक्ष्य रखा गया है?